

ATTACHMENT A

Remarks

By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 8 which is now canceled. It is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance for the following reasons.

Initially in the *Election/Restrictions* section of the Detailed Action, the examiner noted applicant's election with traverse of method claims 1-9 and 11 and made this election final together with the withdrawal of non-elected apparatus claim 10. The finality of the election requirement was based on the citation of a newly cited reference (the Hoetzel '483 patent) which was alleged to show that there was no single general inventive feature under PCT Rule 13.1. However, by this Amendment, claims 1 and 10 have been amended to include a single general inventive feature (as discussed below), so that all claims in this application now have a single general inventive feature. Therefore, it is submitted that the withdrawal of claim 10 should be reversed, and claim 10 examined (and allowed) together with the remaining claims.

In the *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112* section of the outstanding Office Action, independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-9 and 11 were all rejected for failure to comply with the written requirement. In particular, the examiner noted that the added clause language "excluded even partial support of the glass sheet by an air cushion" and such was not taught in the specification so that the added clause was rejected for that reason. By this Amendment, the language in the clause resulting in "excluding even partial support", which is the word "only" in the added clause, has now been deleted from claim 1 (and claim 10) to overcome this rejection.

In the *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103* section, independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-9 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) or § 103 as being anticipated by or

obvious over the principal Hoetzl '483 patent (including the disclosure of USP 5320329 to the same inventor Hoetzl which was incorporated by reference therein, and which included the teaching as noted by the examiner therein). However, for the following reasons, it is submitted that amended independent method claim 1 (and apparatus claim 10) is allowable over this reference.

As noted above, independent claim 1 (and 10) now includes the feature of canceled dependent claim 8. This added feature is that air jets are directed onto the top surface of the glass sheet so that the glass sheet is pressed down substantially at a location of a last one the transferring rotating rollers. The action of the air jets is thus used to improve the transfer force of the last one of the rotating rollers on the glass sheet.

It is submitted that nowhere in the Hoetzl '483 patent is such a feature taught or made obvious, and it will be noted that the examiner did not point out in the Detailed Action any such teaching or suggestion in the Hoetzl '483 patent.

Therefore, it is submitted that independent claim 1 is neither disclosed nor made obvious by the Hoetzl '483 patent (& the Hoetzl ' 329 patent), so that claim 1 is allowable over this reference. For these same reasons, it is submitted that claims 2-7, 9 and 11 dependent from independent claim 1 are likewise allowable. Further, it is submitted that withdrawn apparatus claim 10 which likewise contains the general inventive feature of claim 1 noted above is likewise allowable once the withdrawal thereof is reversed as requested above.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such action is solicited.